

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MADRI

S E C R E T USNATO 6154

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: PERMREP DISCUSSION ON SPAIN

SUMMARY: AT PERMREP LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 12, SEVERAL PERMREPS CONTRIBUTED INSTRUCTED COMMENTS ON SPAIN, FOLLOWING UP PRIVATE NAC MEETING NOVEMBER 7. END SUMMARY.

1. DEAN OF PERMREPS DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) REITERATED HIS PRAISE FOR US INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING ALLIED DISCUSSIONS ON SPAIN. IN THE EVENT OF FRANCO'S DEATH, DE STAERCKE SAID, THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR WILL REPRESENT BELGIUM AT FRANCO'S FUNERAL. GOB PLANS ALSO TO SEND CONDOLENCE LETTERS TO JUAN CARLOS FROM THE KING, TO THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER FROM THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER, AND TO THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER FROM THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. THE FLAG AT THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN MADRID WILL BE HALF-MASTED.
2. KRAFP (FRG) STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WISHED TO MAKE A DEFINITE DISTINCTION BETWEEN FRANCO'S FUNERAL AND JUAN CARLOS' ACCESSION CEREMONY. ACCORDINGLY, THEY PLAN TO SEND FRG AMBASSADOR TO THE FUNERAL. HOWEVER, ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY THE US, FRG WILL SEND A HIGH OFFICIAL FOR THE ACCESSION FORMALITIES, PROBABLY FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL.

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3. SINCE THE NAC DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 7, KILLICK (UK) REPORTED HIS AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN A MORE POSITIVE POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THE FUNERAL AND THE ACCESSION CEREMONY. THE CURRENT CANDIDATE TO REP-

RESENT THE UK IS LORD SHEPHERD, A CABINE MINISTER.

4. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD ENDORSED THE POSITION HE HAD STATED AT NOVEMBER 7 NAC MEETING, ENTAILING AVOIDANCE OF ANY ACTIONS WHICH APPEARED TO SUPPORT THE SPANISH REGIME UNTIL IT SHOWED EVIDENCE OF DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION.

5. MENZIES (CANADA) SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT JUAN CARLOS MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING HOLDING A FORMAL DINNER AT THE TIME FO HIS ACCESSION TO "LAUNCH HIS NEW POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS." HOWEVER, MENZIES ALSO REPORTED THAT SOME WERE TRYING TO DISCOURAGE JUAN CARLOS FROM THIS COURSE.

6. TINE (FRANCE) REPORTED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORIZED HIM TO: (A) EXPRESS AN INTEREST IN TTHE VIEWS PRESENTED NOVEMBER 7 BY THE US; (B) INDICATE THAT IT WAS NATURAL FOR THE ALLIES TO EXHCNAGE VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF SPAIN WHERE THE EVOLUTION OF THAT COUNTRY TOUCHED ON THE ALLIANCE, BUT NOT ON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SPAIN AND INDIVIDUAL ALLIES; AND (C) CAUTION AGAINST REGULARLY SCHEDULED NAC DISCUSSIONS ON SPAIN THAT MIGHT LEAK. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAST POINT, LUNCHEON DISCUSSIONS WERE TO BE PREFERRED. HOWEVER, IF THEY BECAME KNOW IT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO NATO AND THE ALLIANCE IMAGE IN SPAIN. LUNS REMINDED TINE THAT SPAIN HAD ONLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN A PRIVATE MEETING IN LUNS' OFFICE AND AT THE PERMREP LUNCHEON, BOTH HIGHLY SECURE FORA. STREATOR

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